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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 29 September 1965

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1. [ ] Senator John Stennis asked for a briefing on South Vietnam, particularly the military situation, for three o'clock on 29 September. [ ] and Mr. Houston met with him and went over the current military situation in detail. Senator Stennis said his problem was that he felt that the people in the back country of the U. S. where their boys were being drafted were not sufficiently informed on the military state of affairs in South Vietnam. Despite the current improvement in the military situation, Senator Stennis said he felt that they had a long, long, rough way to go yet and the trouble was the people heard of improvement and immediately thought everything was going to be over shortly. He had just made one speech in southern Mississippi and apparently was checking his material with us in preparation for further speeches. He seemed very pleased with [ ] briefing. 25X1

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2. [ ] Talked with Stanley Plesant, General Counsel, USIA, reporting to him our discussions with Representatives Bow and Lipscomb. I suggested for his consideration careful coordination of next year's presentations so that what USIA stated in appropriations hearings would be consistent in the event CIA were also asked about the same situations. Mr. Plesant agreed that this appeared to be highly desirable and that the Vietnam situation was different than other areas in the world and probably should be treated differently. He indicated his impending departure from Government. He stated he would brief his replacement and urge him to be in touch with the Agency.

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3. [ ] Talked with Donald Smith, Bureau of the Budget, who had a query from Congressman Frank Evans about Agency financing. In addition to the points that Smith had in the proposed draft letter to Evans, I suggested that he include reference to the CIA Subcommittees. In addition, I advised Smith that we had not had contact with Evans which would have involved any discussion in depth of Agency financing.

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MORI/CDF